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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) A projectile deployment system for use in a target intercepting device, the projectile deployment system including:
  - a) A body defining a body axis;
  - b) A number of barrels circumferentially spaced around the body axis,
  - c) A number of projectiles axially stacked along each barrel;
  - d) A number of charges, each charge being associated with a respective projectile to urge the respective projectile along the barrel upon activation to thereby deploy the projectile.
- 10 2) A projectile deployment system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - a) The body includes a support body defining the number of barrels, the barrels being adapted to receive the projectiles and associated charges at predetermined positions; and,
  - b) The body including a number of connectors extending therethrough for connecting  
15 first and second connections provided on each projectile to a controller.
- 3) A projectile deployment system according to claim 2, the controller being housed in a cavity in the support body.
- 4) A projectile deployment system according to claim 2 or claim 3, the first and second  
20 connections of each projectile being coupled to an ignition means for activating the charge associated with the respective projectile.
- 5) A projectile deployment system according to any one of the claims 2 to 4, the connectors including:
  - a) A number of sets of first connectors, each set of first connectors coupling the first  
25 connections of each of the projectiles in a respective set of barrels to the controller; and,
  - b) A number of second connectors, each second connector coupling the second  
connections of selected projectiles in different sets of barrels to the controller, thereby allowing the controller to apply activation signals to selected ones of the sets of first connectors and the second connectors to thereby deploy selected  
30 projectiles.
- 6) A projectile deployment system according to claim 1, the body including a support member having a number of barrels mounted thereon.
- 7) A projectile deployment system according to claim 6, wherein:

32) A method of manufacturing a projectile deployment system, the method including:

- a) Providing a body member defining a body axis;
- b) Coupling a number of barrels to the body member, the barrels being circumferentially spaced around the support axis, the barrels including a number of connectors;
- c) Inserting projectiles and associated charges into the barrels, the projectiles including first and second connections adapted to be aligned with respective ones of the number of connectors; and,
- d) Mounting a control system in the cavity, the control system being coupled to the connectors to allow the projectiles to be deployed.

33) A method according to claim 32, the method including manufacturing a projectile deployment system according to any one of the claims 1 to 28.

34) Apparatus for intercepting a target, the apparatus including:

- a) A projectile deployment system having:
  - i) A body; and,
  - ii) A number of projectile systems mounted to the body, each projectile system being adapted to deploy a number of projectiles in a predetermined direction with respect to the body; and,
- b) A controller, the controller being adapted to selectively activate one or more of the projectile systems to thereby deploy projectiles in accordance with a projectile deployment pattern.

35) Apparatus according to claim 34, the apparatus including:

- a) A vehicle having a vehicle body defining a vehicle axis;
- b) A propellant system for propelling the vehicle; and,
- c) A flight controller, the flight controller being adapted to control the propellant system to thereby control the vehicle trajectory.

36) Apparatus according to claim 34 or claim 35, the apparatus including a projectile deployment system according to any one of the claims 1 to 28.

37) Apparatus according to claim 36, the projectile deployment system being aligned such that the vehicle axis is substantially coaxial with the body axis.

38) Apparatus according to claim 36 or claim 37, the deployment of each projectile causing a reactive force along the respective barrel, the pattern of projectiles being at least one of:

ii) A number of projectile systems mounted to the body, each projectile system being adapted to deploy a number of projectiles in a predetermined direction with respect to the body; and,

b) Selectively activating one or more of the projectile systems to thereby deploy projectiles in accordance with a projectile deployment pattern such that at least one of the projectiles intercepts the target.

47) A method according to claim 46, the method including:

- a) Determining the position of the target with respect to the device;
- b) Select a projectile deployment pattern in accordance with position of the target; and,
- c) Activating the projectile systems in accordance with the selected projectile deployment pattern.

48) A method according to claim 47, each projectile system including:

- a) A barrel defining a barrel axis extending from a breach end to a muzzle end;
- b) A number of projectiles axially stacked along the barrel axis; and,
- c) A number of charges, each charge being associated with a respective projectile, and being adapted to urge the respective projectile along the barrel to thereby deploy the projectile, the method including selectively activating the charges to thereby generate the selected projectile deployment pattern.

49) A method according to any one of the claims 46 to 48, the method being performed using at least one of:

- a) A projectile deployment system according to any one of the claims 1 to 28; and,
- b) Apparatus according to any one of the claims 34 to 42.